

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

*Sub A1* 5 1. A lighting assembly for a running board of a vehicle, comprising:

at least one light tube extending along at least a portion of the running board; and  
at least one light source for emitting light into said at least one light tube, whereby said at least one light tube directs said light directly and uniformly over a stepping surface of the running board.

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2. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 further comprising:

an outer portion disposed in said at least one light tube for minimizing glare and directing said light away from the eyes of a user.

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3. The lighting assembly according to Claim 2 wherein said outer portion is translucent.

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4. The lighting assembly according to Claim 2 wherein said outer portion is transparent.

*Sub A2* 5. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein an end of said at least one light tube is bent downward with respect to the vehicle for directing said light directly and uniformly over a ground surface below the vehicle.

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6. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light source is tapped into to direct a portion of said light directly and uniformly over a ground surface below the vehicle.

Sub 5  
A3  
10. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light source includes incandescent bulbs.

10. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light source includes halogen bulbs.

10. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light source includes light emitting diodes (LED).

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10. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light tube is a hard acrylic light tube.

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11. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light tube is a soft acrylic light tube.

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12. The lighting assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one light tube is a fiber-optic light tube.

*Sub*  
*A4*

13. A running board lighting assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a running board;  
at least one light tube extending along at least a portion of said running board; and

5 at least one light source for emitting light into said at least one light tube, whereby said at least one light tube directs said light directly and uniformly over a stepping surface of said running board.

*13*  
14. The running board lighting assembly according to Claim *13* further comprising:

a translucent portion disposed in said at least one light tube for minimizing glare and directing said light away from the eyes of a user.

*14*  
15. The running board lighting assembly according to Claim *13* further comprising:

at least one cavity within said running board for encapsulating said at least one light source, whereby said at least one cavity secures and protects said at least one light source.

*Sub*  
*A5*

16. The running board lighting assembly according to Claim 13 wherein an end of said at least one light tube is bent downward with respect to the vehicle for directing said light directly and uniformly over a ground surface below the vehicle.

17. The running board lighting assembly according to Claim 13 wherein said at least one light source is tapped into to direct a portion of said light directly and uniformly over a ground surface below the vehicle.

*16*  
18. A running board lighting assembly for a vehicle, comprising:  
a running board having at least one cavity;  
at least one light tube extending along at least a portion of said running board;  
an outer portion disposed in said at least one light tube; and  
at least one light source for emitting light into said at least one light tube, said at least one light source being disposed in said at least one cavity of said running board, whereby said at least one light tube directs said light directly and uniformly over a stepping surface of said running board and a ground surface below said running board.

*17*  
19. The lighting assembly according to Claim *18* wherein said outer portion is translucent.

*18*  
20. The lighting assembly according to Claim *18* wherein said outer portion is transparent.